BUNDAY, per Year .. DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Year DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Month. Postage to foreign countries added. THE SUN, New York Oity.

Paris-Kiosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and Kiosque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

If our friends who firm us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose,

The Treaty That Never Was Constitutionally Ratified.

The subjoined communication bears the signature of an English gentleman whose views of American affairs are generally interesting, whether they are right or

wrong: "To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have read with interest your editorial of last Monday on the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. It is related of WILLIAM the Fourth that having told the tale of Waterloo frequently he died happy in the belief that he was among the combatants: the statement has been repeated in the American press with such regularity that the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty was ratified by the Senate. that body believing that British Honduras was no exception, and that because England was permitted a partnership in any future canal she was to be excluded, as you say, 'from all dominion in Central America without exception'-this statement so often repeated had long since carried conviction t me, albeit an Englishman. Your editorial reads as

'That is to say, after the United States Senate had ratified a treaty excluding England from all domin-ion in Central America without exception, England explains that she does not understand the agree-ment to apply to Honduras and other parts of Cen-tral America; and Secretary CLATTON, on his own re-possibility and wetwout sending his vital amendment ment to apply to Honduras and other parts of certal america; and Secretary CLATTON, on also one responsibility and without sending this vital amendment back to the Senate, as it was his duly to do [the italics are yours] writes a note to Sir Henny Bulwer saying that he too understands British Honduras was not embraced in the treaty! Thus the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty stands a contract for certain definite and specified things so far as it is a Constitutional treaty ratified by the United States Senate; a contract at once repulated by Great Britain as to those definite and specific provisions; a contract resting not upon the terms so far as one party is concerned, but upon the construction put upon it by that party, supported by the individual understanding of an American who happened to be Secretary of State. The Clayton-Bulwer Treaty as interpreted by England was never ratified by our Senate. England might just as reasonably maintain now that the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty is already binding upon the United States because Mr. Hay has signed it. "When at Washington a week since I took the op-

When at Washington a week since I took the op portunity of reading a speech delivered in the Senat by Mr. W. H. SEWARDON Jan. 10, 1853. Mr. SEWARD replies thus, by anticipation, to your editorial of Monday last:

Senators who accuse Secretaries of stupidity. suppression or fraud, annot be allowed to pleat ignorance of official exposition in the official journals,' and Mr. SEWARD read the following letter from Mr. Secretary CLAYTON written to Mr. RUPUS

"DRAR SIR: I am this morning writing to Sir H.
BCLWER, and while about to decline altering the
Treaty at the time of evolunging ratifications. I wish
to leave no room for a charge of duplicity against
our Government, such as that we now pretend that
Central America in this Treaty includes British Hon-Central America in this Treaty includes British Hon-duras. I shall therefore say to him in effect that such construction was not in the contemplation of the negotiators or the Senate at the time of the con-firmation. May I have your permission to add that the true understanding was explained by you as Chairman of Foreign Relations in the Senate before the vote was taken on the Treaty? I think it due to frankness on our part. Very truly yours, "Horble W. R. King, U. S. Senate."

"Honble W. R. KINO, U. S. Senate. "Mr. King replied the same day: 'The Senate per feetly understood that the Treaty did not include British Honduras.

"Ten years later England having during the inter val, and in compliance with the terms of the Treaty. evacuated considerable territory and the Bay Islands, President BUCHANAN wrote in his annua message of December, 1860:

"The discordant construction of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty between the two Governments has resulted in a final settlement entirely satisfactory to this Government."

"The Nicaragua Canal is destined to be a costly work of art constructed for your strategic benefit and to double the value of your Pacific Coast farms. Its creation must, of course, reduce largely the dividends we draw from the Suez Canal. Constructed with your capital, its neutralization in time of war will protect that capital. You have under the treaty of all. Do you suppose that had it been completed when you were at war with Spain, your enemy would have ventured into its narrow waterway when any over-zealous lockkeeper or policeman could have stranded the hostile fleet with a charge of MORETON FREWEN.

dynamite?

We must beg leave to say to Mr. FREWEN that his investigation has been either very superficial or very one-sided. As to the understanding of the Senate when it ratifled by a vote of 42 to 11, on May 22, 1850, a treaty absolutely and without exception prohibiting both the United States and Great Britain from exercising dominion in Central America, there is other evidence than the efforts of Mr. CLAYTON'S personal and political triends to relieve him from the obvious consequences of his stupendous mistake.

Senator Cass, for example, voted for the treaty; but as he afterward, when Secretary of State, bluntly informed Lord NAPIER, the British Minister, Mr. Cass voted for it believing that "it abrogated all intervention on the part of England in the Central American territory." Again, in the United States Senate in January, 1854, Mr. Cass made this statement, which Mr. FREWEN may now profitably study:

"This treaty [Clayton-Bulwer] after having been ratified by the Senate, upon its language, and not upon the understanding of the negotiators, was sen to England for the sanction of the Government; and there circumstances show that apprehension was excited lest the Honduras settlement should be ambraced within the limits of the region over which it extended. To prevent this, it was returned with a quasi ratification, or rather a declaration that the settlement at Honduras and its dependencies was not subject to the 'engagements' o the treaty; and this declaration was received and reciprocated by the Secretary of State by calle a counter-declaration, but why, I confess my inability to discover, for it does not counteract the demand of the British Minister, but assents to it by conceding that the 'engagements' of the treaty do not apply to British Honduras and its depen-

Now, sir, what was the duty of the Executive when a treaty was thus returned with a decla-ration intended to control its operation considerations exterior to the tions? Why, to send it again to the Senate a constituent branch of the treaty-making wer, for its consideration and action and no undertake to restrict its application by the und r standing of the negotiators at the expense of the language of the convention, though one of these happened to be the Secretary of State, for this union of functions was but an ac ident, and what was done upon that occasion may be done upon any other and the understanding of these agents of pegotiation may become more important than the text of the

instrument itself." Still again, in his letter of May 29, 1857, to Lord NAPIER, Mr. Cass said :

"Little is hazarded in saying that had the interpretation since put upon the treaty by the British Government, and yet maintained, been anticipated, it would not have been negotiated under the instructions of any Executive of the United States nor ratified by the branch of the Government intrusted with the power of ratification."

Mr. FREWEN has likewise been hunting up the utterances of Mr. Buchanan on the subject of the treaty. Is it possible that he has overlooked this broad and authoritative statement of the understanding of the United States Senate at the time of ratification, in Mr. Buckanan's letter of July 22, 1854, to Lord CLARENDON:

"Had it then been imagined that whilst it [the heary prohibited the United States from acquiring Serritory, under any possible circums ances, in a pay ion of America through which their therough. "comp. to statement" of its creed as it is, may note that, while Lord Salisbury is standard in all respects.

convention, at the same time, permitted Great Britain to remain in the occupancy of all her existing possessions in that region, there would not have been a ringle vote in the American Senate in favor of its ratification. In every discussion it was taken for granted that the convention required Great Britain to withdraw from those possession, and thus place the parties upon an exact equality it Central America. Upon this construction of the convention there was quite as great an unanimity opinion as existed in the House of Lords that the convention with Spain of 1786 required Great Britain to withdraw from the Mosquito pro-

Upon that construction-the only pos sible construction of the language of the treaty submitted to the Senate, and the construction dwelt upon in President TAYLOR'S message urging its ratification, the Senate proceeded to ratify it. Mr. FREWEN quotes an alleged extract from a letter written by Senator WILDIAM RUPUS KING, Chairman of Foreign Relations at the time, and intended to bolster up Secretary CLAYTON in his fatuous determination to put the treaty through at all hazards, on his own responsibility and without sending it back to the Senate as was his duty. If Mr. KING informed Mr. CLAYTON that the Senate " perfectly understood" that British Honduras and its dependencies were excepted, in spite of the plain language of the treaty as ratified, Mr. KING'S zeal for the consummation of a bad bargain put his testimony into direct confliet with that of the distinguished American statesmen whom we have quoted to the contrary.

How could Mr. King or any other Senator have known at that time that Great Britain was going to refuse to ratify the treaty except on the understanding that it should not mean what it said? The treaty in its original form passed the Senate on May 22. The British Government gave notice on May 28 that the Queen's ratification would be prepared without delay. It was not until June 8 that Lord PALMERSTON instructed Sir HENRY BULWER to insist on the exterior stipulation which BULWER subsequently incorporated in the extraordinary declaration of June 29, and which Secretary CLAY-TON accepted in his memorandum of July 5, after having been unofficially assured on July 4 by Mr. King that it was all right, and the Senate understood it so.

The simple truth is that Mr. CLAYTON and the thick-and-thin friends of the treaty knew that it could never pass the Senate again if it went back to that body with the British amendment excepting British Honduras. That is why Mr. CLAYTON undertook to close up the business without the advice and consent of the Senate. If the English Government had not been aware that the terms of the treaty as it was ratifled by the Senate clearly excluded British pretensions to dominion in one of the Central American States, it would not have instructed Bulwer to secure in an irregular way a vital modification of the original agreement. If CLAYTON had not been aware that the American Senate would indignantly reject the proposed modification, notwithstanding the assurance which Mr. King conveniently gave him, he would have sent the modified treaty back to be ratified according to the requirements of the Constitution. The very fact that he was afraid to ask the advice and consent of the Senate conclusively disproves the statement attributed to Senator WILLIAM RUFUS KING.

Mr. CLAYTON himself confessed substantially that such was the case. In 1851 he resumed his seat in the Senate; and in times when there is no stake for the 1854, when the treaty that bore his name was attacked not only on its merits but also on the methods employed in concluding it, he defended his course on the fatal ground that it was a question between ing the treaty altogether and exchange ing ratifications in the manner adopte. without resubmission to the Senate.

Mr. MORETON FREWEN will now perhaps understand our proposition that the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty was never Constitutionally ratified. The treaty which the Senate did ratify was expressly rejected by the British Government. The treaty which the British Government was willing to ratify never had the indispensable sanction of the United States Senate.

We feel ourselves obliged to add a word or two about the somewhat remarkable suggestion with which Mr. Frewen ends his readable letter. Are we to understand him as advising the United States Government to pledge itself by the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty to maintain the neutrality of the canal in peace and war, and then as a military expedient, in case we are ourselves at war, to procure or connive at the destruction by dynamite of any enemy of ours who may enter the canal on the strength of our solemnly recorded guarantee? If that is what Mr. Frewen means, we cannot regard his suggestion as either complimentary to the American people or creditable to himself.

An Unpardonable Sin. The Independent of New York is no longer a religious paper. Its space is now occupied almost wholly with secular news and discussion, the purely religious features still remaining to it being relegated to four or five obscure pages near the end of its weekly number of one hundred and fifty pages and more. Accordingly, its opinions must in fairness be taken as secular rather than religious, but in treating the question of the attitude of the Presbyterian Church toward Dr. McGIFFERT, it expresses a view which is not only secular, but immoral also. "It is difficult for us to see," says this quondam religious paper, "how any man who believes in scholarship and in the right of private judgment can indorse the position of Dr. Birch" in appealing his case to the General Assembly.

It proceeds to advise the Presbyterian Church to give "large liberty," because of the varying lights and shadows thrown upon its creed by the results of scholarly inquiry," on the ground that "if any one thing has been made clearer than another during the past half century it is that we have not reached any complete statement with regard to the Scriptures;" but it does not ask and it does not expect the General Assembly to give this liberty except at the expense of disloyalty to the creed in which

it professes before Gop to believe Thus the transformed Independent recommends the Presbyterian Church to take a distinctly immoral course, contemptible for its duplicity, in order to avoid the trouble of meeting the issue raised by Dr. McGIF-FERT. If the General Assembly agrees with him and the Independent that " we have not reached any complete statement with regard to the Scriptures" and that "shadows" have been "thrown on its creed by the results of scholarly inquiry," it will be bound, of course, in sheer honesty, when it meets at St. Louis next May, to make haste to announce that

force to California and Oregon must pass, and that | viz.: that "all" the Scriptures "are given by inspiration of God," are "immediately nspired by Gop" and have been "kept pure in all ages" "by His singular care and providence." If "shadows" have been thrown on this "by the results of scholarly inquiry," of course there have been no such care and providence, and the General Assembly will perjure itself in professing to believe and in requiring its ministers solemnly to pledge themselves to teach that there are no such shadows," but that "the entire perfection thereof" "doth abundantly evidence" the Bible "to be the Word of Gop." If the Presbyterian Church has changed its mind on the subject and is now in doubt, awaiting a "complete statement" from scholarship, it ought to say so; but the Independent does not assume that there has been any such change or any change in its belief. "The great body of Presbyterians in this country," it acknowledges, "believe heart and soul in the inspiration of the Scriptures, in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in the genuine consecration and devotion of the Christian ministry."

Not less inconsistent and immoral is it for these ministers and theological professors to deny a creed to which they were required to pledge solemn assent, unless the Church proceeds plainly and openly to give them "large liberty" as to the matter and to relieve them from the crime of forswearing themselves in pledging allegiance to the Westminster Confession.

The Independent talks about interference with "the right of private judgment," when a Church holds its ministers to their ordination vows; but where is the interference? Dr. McGIFFERT and every other Presbyterian minister or layman is free to exercise his private judgment in assenting to the Presbyterian creed or dissenting from it. He can stay in the Church or he can leave it; he is under no compulsion. If he is dissatisfied with the "complete statement" of the Westminster Confession and will not be content, except with the "complete statement" of scholarship. which "we have not reached" yet, he is free to go over into agnosticism and wait for it. The General Assembly cannot decree that he shall be burned at the stake, and no law, religious or secular. will interfere with his exercising his right of private judgment. Dr. BRIGGS was suspended from the Presbyterian ministry because he demanded a more "complete statement" than that of the Westminster Confession, yet he remains happy and prosperous; even goes on teaching in a Presbyterian theological seminary, though he has become an Episcopalian priest, no divinity school of that Church being willing to admit him to its faculty.

If the Presbyterian Church has come to agree with the teachings of Dr. BRIGGS and Dr. McGiffert, there is nothing to prevent its next General Assembly from announcing the fact. It is free to give up its present standard of faith and doctrine and to fall back on its form of church government as its sole reason for maintaining a distinct existence, leaving to its ministers to believe and preach about the Bible and every other matter of religion as they happen to choose; but it is not free from the moral obligation to profess only the religious belief which is honestly in its heart. Infidelity parading under the colors of faith is an odious spec tacle before Gop and man. If there is a sin against the Holy Ghost, an unpardonable sin this is it, and not even cowardice can afford any color of excuse for it in these heretic.

Old Men and Young Men in War. An anonymous writer in the National Review has put forward a theory which, he thinks, accounts for England's unreadiness for the present contest in South Africa and for the defeats which, until recently, her forces have encountered. The fundamental cause of her reverses is, he says, the delegation of Ministerial power and of military

command to men long past the prime of life. It is an interesting hypothesis: can it be made good by proofs?

Napoleon's deeds were better than his

axioms, and we need not attach much value, therefore, to his assertion that "at sixty, men are no longer good for anything." It is true that most of the army commanders who carried the wars of the French Republic and Empire to triumphant conclusions were considerably under fifty

years of age. The selection, however, of young and inexperienced men for posts of high responsibility was involuntary, being mainly due to the fact that the officers of the monarchical military establishment had been aristocrats almost to a man, and had either emigrated or been guillotined. The contemporaneous supersession of old by young officers in the French navy had calamitous results, and the different outcome of the same course on land must be attributed in large measure to the superiority of the French rank and file, who were animated by the enthusiastic and dauntless spirit of an awakened people. Curiously enough, however, of all Na-POLEON'S Marshals, Massena, the oldest, was the best. Among the foreign Generals whom the French had to encounter, the aged SUWAROFF beat MOREAU, MACDONALD and JOUBERT in successive battles; it was an indecisive and almost fruitless victory which, after tremendous bloodshed, NA POLEON gained over the aged KUTUSOFF at Borodino; and it was old BLUCHER who

> Arguments for both old and young Generals may be drawn from the experience of our Civil War. SHERIDAN was thirtythree when he was made Commander of the Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac; GRANT was forty at Shiloh; SHERMAN was forty-four when he started on his Atlanta campaign. On the side of the Confederacy. however, Joseph E. Johnston was fifty two at the outbreak of the contest. LEE was fifty-four and ALBERT SIDNEY JOHN-STON was fifty-eight; all dangerously near the point at which, according to NaPoleon, men are good for nothing. If we turn to later wars of the first magnitude, we find that the one man of transcendent military reputation, Von Moltke, was sixty-six years old at Sadowa and seventy at Sedan. In view of these facts, we are not greatly impressed by the information that Gen. METHUEN is fifty-five, Gen. GATACRE fifty-seven. Gen. BULLER, fifty-one and Gen. WHITE, sixty-five years old, especially when we keep in view the circumstance that the British met with no important success in South Africa until the arrival of Lord ROBERTS, who is sixtyeight. Then again, if age be a disqualification, how did it happen that METHUEN and BULLER were beaten respectively at the Tugela River and the Modder River, when the Boer commanders, JOUBERT and CRONJE, were older than their British opponents? Finally, as to the assertion that age

dealt the coup de grace at Waterloo.

seventy, his able antagonist, President KRUGER, is older still.

The truth, of course, is that age implies experience, and that the more experience a statesman or military commander has, the better, provided his intellectual qualities remain unimpaired. That was the principle on which the Romans chose their Consuls. Whether the intellectual qualities are impaired is a question not to be settled by the calendar, but by a careful diagnosis of the individual case. Napoleon was but forty-six at Waterloo, yet he gave unmis takable indications of physical and mental deterioration, and, from the viewpoint of soundness, apparently, was older than was A. S. JOHNSTON at Shiloh or VON MOLTKE at Sedan. We add that, if it be true that Lord SALISBURY shows signs of sentlity, an as sertion of which we have seen no evidence, the signs can scarcely be attributed to age for England has had vigorous Prime Ministers-we refer to PALMERSTON and GLAD-STONE--who were much older than he.

The Boers.

In all anti-Boer literature the argument that England's course is justifiable because of the non-republicanism of the Boer Government, is found prominent. KRÜGER is represented to be a pure self-seeker, corrupt and arbitrary, despotically overawing the populace, Boer as well as Britain, through the power of his political ring. The Boers are presented as a sodden, archaic and swinish type of mankind, to whom liberty, as the higher civilization knows it, is unknown, and for whom British rule would be a blessing deserving welcome. All this of course is denied most stoutly by the partisans of the Boers.

What is seen unmistakably by the entire world is that the Boer men are fighting to preserve their maligned government and their despised independence with a bravery that commands universal admiration, with a tenacity of purpose that can come only from an immovable conviction of the justice of their cause, and with a unity of effort which shows that there are no two opinions among their people as to the duty of the moment. The intensity of their patriotism cannot be surpassed by any people on the globe.

The Boers are fighting to preserve their national integrity against an invading conqueror, with a heroism and intelligence and unanimity which prove that instead of being the slaves of tyranny they are alive with the spirit of freedom and approve and believe in their government with heart and soul, and to a man.

Puerto Rico.

Yesterday the House passed a bill for a Puerto Rican tariff of 15 per cent., to last for two years.

Such a tariff asserts the inherent and necessary right of Congress to legislate for territory belonging to the United States. In operation it will undoubtedly cause in Puerto Rican industry and prosperity much of the revival which the American Government owes to the island. None the less, the essential justice of the situation demands that the free trade of Puerto Rico which the bill promises in two years shou'd be made to begin now.

The Hoosier Populists have struck at the root of the matter. Their platform calls for the election by direct vote of Judges of the Supreme Court. This would make the Supreme Court what the Populists wish to see it; no collection of lawyers, with unfortunate prejudices, but a Populist committee.

CAPT. CONCAS AND THE SOLACE.

No Truth in Allegation That Spaniards Were Ill-Treated on the Ship.

THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: While reading your paper this morning I came across some of the reputed sayings of Capt. Concas. in regard to treatment of Spaniards and Americans on board United States Hospital Ship Solace. Having been a patient on board of said ship from June 16 till July 18, 1898, I am in a position to speak on this subject, and would like to do so through the medium of your paper. On July 3 there were possibly fifteen or twenty wounded men aboard Solace, mostly marines from Camp McCalla. After destruction of Cervera's fleet we hastened to Santiago, where wounded Spaniards were taken aboard. Most of the latter were seriously wounded and their conditions at once appealed to our sympathy. forgot our pains and ministered to the sufferforgot our pains and ministered to the sufferings of these people. The five surgeons on the Solace treated Spaniards as well as the rest of us, and I must say we received the best of care. Of course, we did not have any luxuries, but the food was good and substantial and satisfactory to all. After taking on Spanish wounded and Americans of the Regular Army (from hospital ship Rejie!) we must have numbered 600 or 700 patients, which necessitated a decrease of rations, but under such circumstances nothing else could be expected. Most of the Spaniards were confined to their beds, the marines and saliors waiting on them, showing a sympathy we would never have received ing a sympathy we would never have received had the fortunes of war been reversed. Very few of them appreciated this, returning our little favors by putting their fingers to their noses and giving us full benefit of their not too choice favors by butting their fingers to their noses and giving us full benefit of their not too choice collections of Spanish oaths. On arriving at Norfolk, Va., the Spaniards were taken to Naval Hospital in ambulances, while we Americans walked. In the hospital they received same care as we did, if not better. The Southern people were very kind to them, bringing them clothes, pipes, tobacco, delicacies, &c., and they were not lacking in kindness to us. I cannot conceive how any man, even a Spaniard, can put such stories in circulation, when he should be all gratifude for favors received by himself and his men. For my part, I cannot speak too highly of the care and kindness shown us on the Solace by the surgeons and nurses. It is owing to this exceilent medical care that I have both my hands to-day, having received a bullett through my left forearm. All praise is due the medical corns of the Solace and the volunteer nurses at the Naval Hospital, Norfolk, Va. This is from one who was among the wounded from June 16 till July 28, 1888, and well qualified to speak of the treatment received.

New York, Feb. 28. New York, Feb. 26. treatment received.

THE COUNT RIANT LIBRARY.

Harvard Receives 3,500 More Books of the

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 28.-The second shipment of the late Count Riant's famous Oriental library, which was purchased by Prof. Archibald C. Coolidge and Mr. J. Bandolph Coolidge for the Harvard University library, reached Cambridge yesterday. The first installment of these books, which was received by the library several weeks ago, consisted of about 700 of the more recent and less rare volumes, but those which arrived yesterday were

umes, but those which arrived yesterday were nearly 3,500 in number, and include a large part of the choicest books in the collection. They range over the entire field of early Christian theology, ecclesiastical history and Oriental geography, in which Count Riant found his life work.

The original library included 15,000 volumes, collected by Count Riant through a long period. The part which Harvard receives through the efforts of Prof. Coolidge is the most valuable and complete library extant on the history of the Latin East. Count Riant founded the "Society of the Latin Last" in France, and many of the volumes in his library came through this society, but at the time of his death, seven years ago, the society dissolved, and the only provision made by Count Riant for the books was that they should all be catalogued before peing sold.

The Century for March opens as usual with one of Mr. Cole's engravings; this time, with a copy of Turner's "Dido Building Carthage." Dr. Weir Mitchell begins a story entitled " Dr. North and His Friends." Dr. Parry O'Meara's record of his conversations with Napoleon on St. Helens is begun and Mr. Morley's Cromwell comes down to the capture of the King. Many familiar contributors agreement by changing accordingly the incapacitates for high Ministerial office, we are represented, and the number is up to the Century

IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The despatches relating to Gen. Cronje's surrender are interesting reading, and give some idea of the determined character of the men who held the langer which Lord Roberts found constructed with so much ingenuity and energy as to be almost impregnable to assault This is a great tribute to the spade and repeating rifle in the hands of men who know how to handle them; and it is certain that the lessons which the Boers have been giving in the use of both will be found in the future text books of war.

From certain expressions in one of Lord Roberts's despatches, as given out by the British War Office, it seems probable that part of his force is already moving toward Bloemfontein, and should soon come in contact with the Boers again. The reports from Gens. Gataere and Clements show that the Boers are retiring all along the line, Jamestown, north of Dordrecht, having been taken by troops under command of the former and Rensburg reoccupied by the latter. Whether any attempt will be made to defend the passages of the Orange River will depend on how matters may go near Bloemfontein, but the probability is that the bulk of the Boer forces in the south of the Free State will have already gone north, and that those now confronting Gens Gatacre and Clements are merely screens to delay their advance. It is no in the probabilities of the situation that any effort will be made to defend Bloem fontein, the locality and surroundings not af fording positions which could be turned to much account; and strategic reasons call for a different line of action on account of the post tion in Natal. The pertinacity with which Gen. Buller is

pushing his attempt to reach Ladysmith pre vents the detachment of more men from Gen Schalck-Burger's force to oppose Lord Roberts. The despatches both of THE Sun special correspondent and of Gen. Buller indicate that the progress made since the British crossed the Tugela for the third time is, so far, tedious and costly, every foot of the way being stubbornly contested From the latest descriptions of Gen. Buller's manœuvres it is plain that having tried the direct road by the west of the railway he found it impracticable, and had to recross the Tugela and cross again be low the outlet of the Langerwacht Spruit in order to try and turn the Boer positions among the foothills to the eastward of Gro belaar's Kloof, from the east. What success he has had up to the date of the latest despatch. Tuesday, seems to have been won at a serious loss of men and officers, and, as the key of the Boer position, Grobelsar's Kloof itself, is still in their hands, and their lines of intrenchments appear to be endless, there may be an unexpected delay in the relief of Ladysmith The Boers seem to be depending principally on their rifles for the defence of the positions assailed by Gen. Buller.

The report that power has been given to the military authorities in Rhodesia to impress everything requisite for the use of troops points to an early and vigorous effort to relieve Mafeking. There is also a rumor that a rising of the Matabele in the Chartered Company's territory has taken place or is imminent. There is nothing improbable in this, for it was regarded as almost certain soon after the war broke out, and was the cause of grave apprehension among the white settlers who had appropriated the lands of the natives.

A UNIVERSALIST REVIVAL. To Begin in Brooklyn Next Sunday-Not Controversial Affair.

The Rev. Dr. J. Coleman Adams, pastor o All Soul's Universalist Church, in South Ninth street, Brooklyn, and three other clergymen of the same denomination are arranging for a revival among Universalists. The revival will begin on Sunday night in All Soul's Church, the Church of Good Tidings, the Prospect Heights Church and the Church of Our Faith. The ministers will preach each in his own church on a particular subject and then will change pulpits until each has spoken in the four churches. The revival will last four weeks and there will be meetings every Weinesday.

Wednesday.

"It is not our purpose to attack any other wing of the Christian body," said the Rev. Dr. Adams last evening, "or to criticise any body's methods, or to bring up any reference to events in the past. We do not intend to take any notice of slurs, Our object is simply to meet people who are anxious to know what meet people who are anxious to know what this seet has to teach. Our statement will be purely formative and positive, not polemical or controversial in any sense."

Meaning of the Hungarian War Credits. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Yesterday's is sue of Tur Sex, under the headline "A Stirring Up in the Balkans" (p. d), contains the statement that the Hungarian Government a short time ago asked the Parliament of Hungary for a credit of six mil lions of dollars for a partial mobilization of the Hun garian Army. As the article continues to draw very

statement.

grave conclusions from this alleged fact I may be permitted to point to a very essential error of the It is true that the Hungarian Parliament, on Jan. itions at once appealed to our sympathy.

31, voted a supplementary credit of thirty millions. We, although suffering from our own wounds, of florins—twelve millions of dollars—for military purposes. But it was not an appropriation for the future. The thirty millions were spent by the mil tary administration of Austria-Hungary in the years of 1897 and 1898. As the "delegations" of the Hungarian and Austrian Parliaments before whom belong the appropriations for the common affairs of Austria-Hungary-fereign affairs, Army, also Bosnia and Her Hungary—fereign affairs, Army, also Bosnia and Herzegovina—could not meet in those years because of the continuous crisis in Austria, the common affairs had to be carried along on the strength of indemnity bills passed by the Hungarian Parliament and promulgated, in Austria, by Imperial decrees. The indemnity bills authorize the Government to govern, for a certain time, on the basis of the last budget as enacted in law and give no power for expenditures not provided in that budget. If, however, emergencies arise which cause unprovided expenses the Government has to submit supplementary bills of appropriation to the Parliament. It was such a bill of supplementary appropriation which was passed by the Hungarian Parliament on Jan 31.

Prime Minister Szell, called to account by several members of the House, gave as explanation, among others, the troubles on the Balkans, threatened by the war between surkey and Greece in 1887, which made it compulsory to prepare everything for a speedy mobilization of the Austro-Hungarian Army.

The defective cables from Budapest mentioned the mobilization only, without adding that the whole matter belongs to the past and, thereby, created the false impression that a credit was voted for the impending partial mobilization of the Austro-Hungarian Army.

There was another statement in the article of The Sux which I am very sorry, indeed, to rectify, I zegovina-could not meet in those years because of

impending partial mobilization of the Austro-Hungarian Army.

There was another statement in the article of The Sux which I am very sorry, indeed, to rectify. I wish we could talk about the tendencies of the Hungarian Government, the movements of the Hungarian Government, the movements of the Hungarian Army in the adars of the Balkans. But, also the community of the foreign adairs and the Army is still in force between Hungary and Austra. Sithough everything indicates that those bonds, not liked by either nation, cannot last very much longer. As matter stand to-day, however, we can only talk of the plans of Austra-Hungary, the movements of the Austra-Hungarian Army.

As to the stirring up in the Balkans, attention should be called also to the rumor-not mentioned yet in the American press-that Bulgaria intends to proclaim full independence on the anniversary of the treaty of San Stefano-March 3—and that in case of war between Bulgaria and Servia Austra-Hungary would prevent the crushing of Servia as it did in 1885. This is well known by the little States interested in the affairs of the Balkans and may prevent them, for a while, at least, to start that general war which is predicted since many years.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 24.

DR. HENRY Baracs.

From the Catholic World.

Briggs of the Catholic University discusses the legal side of the attitude of the Government toward the Philippines. His contention is that the United States Government is perfeetly justified, on the principles of the Declaration of Independence, in assuming governmental control in the Ph lippines until such time as they are able to elect in a legal way their constituted authorities. The legal interpretation of "people" is not that of a mob or of a collection of tribes, but of a duly organized Government; and this interpretation, according to Prof. Brig.s. is borne out not only by such authorities as Judges Cooley and Brownson, but he quotes for them also scholastic philosopher like Zigliara and Liberatore.

Harner's Magazine for March opens with an interesting account of moose hunting by Tappan Ad-ney, illustrated in the Remington style by the author. Capt. Mahan discusses "The Problem of Asia," Mr. Poultney Bigelow describes 'Germany's First Col ony in China:" Julian Ralph tells of Benares; Mr. Archibald Colquhoun continues his history of "Russia's Advance in Central Asia." and Mr. H. C. Hillegas describes 'Pretoria Before the War:" s x im portant articles on timely subjects. The short stories and the serials, including among the latter Mr. Stephen Crane's "Wailomville Stor.es," are in-

SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. GERMANY'S TROUBLES IN SHANTUNG. An Earnest Plea by a Distinguished Roman Catholic Rector.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I read your article of this morning and I praise your evident desire to say and do what is just and fair for the Catholic half of the population of New York. You confess, however, with creditable frankness that you cannot see your way to provide the necessary secular education without excluding religious instruction; because there would be an inevitable clash among the different denominations. Permit me to suggest a simple plan which would prevent this too much dreaded result. I say too much dreaded because, after all, stagnation and total indifference in the important matter of religion make a kind of peace which is worse than war. As the weather is now very cold, let it serve me as an illustration. It is when we no longer feel it that we are frostbitten. Better it is to suffer and live than to die into such peace.

As to the plan, to use another illustration just at hand, there are two ways of building the rapid transit tunnel which can be used simultaneously, if necessary in so great a work. The first is to have the city employ the men directly, superintending them with its own officers; the second is to let it out, the whole or only parts. o private citizens, who will contract to do the work and who will be paid when the public officials shall on inspection pronounce it satisfactory. This last is, I believe, the p'an agreed upon. The officials will take into account only one thing, viz.: Have they built the tunnel? They are not troubled about the religion of the workmen; it is all one to them whether they curse and swear at their work, or keep entire silence, or, if so inclined, as good men, occupy their minds occasionally with pious thoughts or even give vent to them in prayer, provided, of course, that the result is the same. Let the State give out some of the big work of secular education to us contractors

Let the State inspect us and examine our pupils, and, if they find that they are as well up to the mark as are children educated by the State directly, let it make no discrimination against them because their parents wish them to accompany their regular work by prayer, religious instruction, &c., but pay the school so much per head for secular teaching.

Here is an easy way out of this apparently inolvable problem. Is our Republic to give less freedom to her citizens than England and Germany, too, I believe, give to their subjects? Are we to believe that to be American citizens the father and mother must cease to be rulers of their families and hand over their offspring to other people for weal or for woe? What, after all, is this Imperial State, called repubican, but a very Casar, if it seeks to drag the child out of its parents' control, where the latter are able to care for it? The State is composed of men who legislate and who perhaps are not parents at all.

Lend your influence, dear sir, to relieve us from this cast-iron school system and let us have a more elastic and a more truly American one, if for no other reason, to save the free institutions of the land, which depend on religion for their permanency. Better have a little rivalry among sects than let Christianity die P. F. McSWEENY. NEW YORK, Feb. 27. Rector of St. Brigid's.

Keep Religion Out of the Public Schools.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your editorial entitled "A Perflous Scheme" should be printed in pamphlet form and sent to every minister of every denomination in the United States, so that they might learn the lesson from it that our public schools are secular institutions and not to be tampered with by any Church. The public school receives the children of foreign-born parents, and graduates them as good Americans, and not as Roman Catholics, Presbyterians. Episcopalians or Methodists. The teachers of our public schools are paid by money raised by general taxation. without party, creed or color. This money cannot be diverted to sectarian education.

If the Roman Catholics want sectarian schools they will have to support the schools themselves-there is no other way. I know that to support these Roman Catholic parochial schools many poor people deny themselves the necessities of life, but they do this so that their children may be educated in their faith, and in this way they hope to be repaid. I do not attack the Roman Catholics personally. for they make as good citizens as any other denomination, but I attack them in the same manner as I would the Mormon, the Mahamedan, the Episcopalian, the Methodist, or any other sect that would attempt to introduce their religious doctrines into the public schools. If you want good citizens, good patriots and good Americans, you must keep the public school secular. As soon as you introduce religious teaching you are sowing the seeds of controversy, bigotry and hatred. Church and State must be separate. If the numerous religious sects wish to teach their doctrines to children, there is no objection to their devoting one hour every day to their teachings, providing it is done in their own churches or their own schools, supported by money contributed by their adherents; but when they propose to carry their religious teaching into the institutions of the State, the ery of every true American must be, "Hands

The public school is the bulwark of this Republic, and you might as well attack the Constitution of the United States as to attack it. NEW YORE, Feb. 27. F. X. McCarthy.

The Bible in the Public Schools.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have read very tew Sun articles of vital American interest that cannot be made directly referable to the American Constitution-to the Constitution as an instrument and to that unwritten constitution which one might call American-

Your editorial of to-day, "A Perilous Scheme," is one of these. I have always cordially indorsed the position you take therein. I believe it to be American. But, since the article is one of criticism of "a perilous scheme," it is necessarily negative. I would welcome at some time in the future an affirmative expression of opinion on this question: "Should the Bible be read in our public schools?" If not, why not? And if so, should the reading be made a part of the so-called "devotional exercises?"

Jews, Protestants, atheists, Catholics, Brahmins may all contribute to the support of our schools. However much we may disagree with our neighbor in matters of religion, is it right to force a Jew's child to hear teachings utterly repugnant to his father, to make taxpayers' children listen to words upon which they base different creed? Has not the atheist a right to but his eyes and ears to the messages of the Bible? If we feel that the atheist is in the dark. can we make him see the light by compelling his child to know things his father would not nave him know?

Personally, I believe in continuing the use of the Bible in our schools; but I would limit the elections read to those parts that have a distinct ethical, literary or historical value. do not believe that half enough thought is given to the religious feelings and prejudices of many of our people, who, though of different creed to that of the great majority of the community, are nevertheless Americans and tax-Davers.

STAMPORD, Conp., Feb. 27.

Maine Indians Not Decreasing. From the Lewiston Evening Journal.

The census reports of the Maine Indian tribes of late years have shown a slow but steady decrease in population, but how is it for the last century or half century? The report of Agent Hunt of the Penoiscot tribe shows a population of 397, a loss of three during 1899, But in 1837 W. D. Williamson at the request of officers of the tribe took a complete list of the families and number of members in each and found to families and 392 individuals, which shows that the Maine Indian is holding his own pretty well, after all.

From the Phi ad lphia Press. "Do you do any penance during Lent, Aunt Minerva?"
"Yes: I quit mixing up with the church gows."

chief port at Shantung, reports that 4,000 armed Chinese have collected on the surveyed route of the railroad which the Germans are

Mr. John Fowler, our Consul at Chefoo, the

about to build across the province, and declare that they will resist the building of the road and fight any German troops sent against them. Germany has shown no disposition to ignore even petty obstacles thrown in her way by the natives, as was seen last spring when a German force took possession of Ngan-tungwei Bay, near the south frontier of Shantung. and also despatched troops to the large interior towns of I-chau and Si-chau, far outside of the German concession at Kiao-chau Bay. The unrest of the people and the protests against the German concession were especially emphatic in these great towns, and the result was that the natives were treated to a display of German force. Herr von Bulow defended this action in the Reichstag by declaring that while Germany has no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of China, it is her duty to see that her moral and material interests are not affected by internal disorder in the Em.

The outlines of the German policy in Shantung appear to be clearly set forth in this and other official declarations. Only 80,000 Chinese live within the German concession, while there are 36,000,000 in the densely peopled province. The territory leased to Germany is small, but the treaty by which she acquired it also gave her the right to build two railroads, the more important of which is to extend from the sea to the western border of the province. The Chinese Government agreed to "afford every facility and protection" for the building and operation of the railroads. The route of the main road was designated in the treaty. It extends to the Yellow River, passes through some of the largest cities, including the capital. and skirts the great coal fields of central Shantung. A preliminary survey was made in 1898, and a company has been formed to build this line, which is declared in the treaty to be 'solely for the development of commerce.

Germany's action, last spring, in marching troops into Chinese territory was excused on the ground that the Chinese Government had failed to preserve order and protect foreigners. If the mob now attempts to interfere with the railroad, which is of the highest importance for the development of trade in Kiao-chau Bay, the question whether Germany is to reap any of the benefits conferred by the treaty of 1898 will be the point at issue; and Germany is likely to deal with the question as promptly as when she seized Kiao-chau Bay upon the murder of one or two of her subjects.

AGAINST MILITARY CODE BILL. Delegation of Military Men Will Go to Albany to Oppose It.

Military men were in consultation vesterday relative to the campaign to be waged against the Henry bill introduced in the Assembly to amend the military code, governing the National Guard. It was decided to send to Albany the strongest delegation possible to protest against the bill before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs. These officers yesterday signified their willingness to gowith the delegation: Brig.-Gen. George Moore. Smith, Brig.-Gen. McCoskry Butt, Col, Daniel

Smith, Brig.-Gen. McCoskry Butt, Col. Daniel Appleton of the Seventh Regiment, and Col. William F. Morris and Major George T. Lorigan of the Ninth Regiment. These regiments will be represented in the delegation: the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Twenty-second, Twelfth and Seventy-first.

There has been much speculation as to the influences back of the bill. Gen. Butt, commanding officer of the First Brigade, said yesterday. If do not think that the bill came from headquarters, for it contains too much bad English and too many trivialities. I am at a loss to know who is back of this bill, but perhaps our visit to Albany will enable me to find out. There is something very mysterious about this bill. None of the Guard officers knew anything about it till they saw mention of it in the newspapers." of it in the newspapers.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The new catalogue of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is a volume of 360 pages, of which nearly one-third are occupied by the register of graduates and their professional occupations. Nothing shows better the character and quality of the work of the institution than even a superficial examination of this excellent list. A very large proportion of the graduates are engaged in responsible work in the line of the professions chosen during their student years. Among notable changes from the register of last year a few may be men-

It is interesting to observe the effect of the rapid growth of the Institute on the number of graduates. Of the total number of graduates since 1863 (2,136), one-half have taken their

of graduates. Of the total number of graduates since 1863 (2.136), one-half have taken their degrees in the past seven years. One new Alumni Society is mentioned, the Washington Society of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, of which Mr. Frederick H. Newell. '85. Chief Hydrographer of the United States Geological Survey, is President. Other changes include a considerable extension of the list of professional lecturers, and announcements of the new courses of instruction in heating and ventilation and landscape architecture, in regard to both of which preliminary statements were made at the corporation meeting of December 13. The usual careful description of subjects and methods of instruction occupies a large proportion of the catalogue, and the announcements in regard to scholarships and fellowships have been materially extended.

Of the officials appointed among institute graduates during the last year are: General Superintendent, Chicago, Great Western Railway: President of the Denver Engineering Works: President of the Denver Engineering Works: President of the United Engineering Company, Ulmited, of Johannesburg, South African Republic: Hydrographer, United States Geological Survey; Superintendent, of the Dolores Mine Guegenheimer Exploration Company, Mexico; Professor of Mechanical Engineer, Northern Pacific Railway Company; Assistant Naval Architect, New York Shir Building Yard; Assistant Engineer of the City of Boston; Professor of Chemistry, Throop Polytechnic Institute; Assistant Engineer for Honolulu Sewerage, H. I.; First Vice-President and Superintendent of Shoen-berger Structural Company; editor of the American Electrician: Assistant Engineer for Honolulus Sewerage, H. I.; First Vice-President and Superintendent of Shoen-berger Structural Company; editor of the American Electrician: Assistant Engineer for Honolulus Sewerage, H. I.; First Vice-President and Superintendent of Shoen-berger Structural Company; editor of the American Electrician: Assistant Engineer for Honolulus Sewerage, H. I.;

Suicide by Refrigeration. From the Chicago Inter Ocean.

Physics at Colby College.

Prem the Chicago Inter Ocean.

Denver, Col., Feb. 23—The body of a man which was found in a refrigerator car at Eaton, Col. Feb. 4, has been identified as that of Stuart St. Chair of Williamsport, Pa. Instead of accident his death is suicide. St. Clair, who had been travelling under the name of James Hamlyn, as agent for a refrigerator car company, wrote to his wife from Fort Worth. Tex., last January that he intended to commit suicide. Jan. 27 he lay down on a pile of ice in a senied refrigerator car and froze to death. His body was found when the Colorado and Southern train reached Eaton a fortnight later. His wife, hearing of this incident, sent for a photograph of the dead man and to-day positively identified him as her husband.

The Southern Hoe as the National Unifier.

From the Southern Parm Magazine. On Jan. 18 the first full crate of strawberries of the season was sent from Alvin. This is a little town in Brazoria county, Texas, from which were shipped last year six carloads of cabbage and Irish potatoes and crates of fruits and vegetables. Strawperries represent the movement which is making the South the market garden of the country and the unifier of the people. The South is becoming more potent than ever in American affairs, and the hoe is mightier than the sword, and, consequently, than

Diversification in Southern agriculture has pro duced diversification in national diet, has trans-formed luxuries into necessities almost, and is thus building up a general American type of stomach which will prevail long after the memory has been lost of the few dyspeptic degenerates here and there who feel obliged to indulge in nightingale-tongue pies, frog-liver fricassee or other extravagances as the only means of distinguishing themselves from the great mass. Generalization of diet alone accounts for the broader charity of the people of different sections of the country toward each other and the spirit of national unity which prevails.

Gone is the day of the pie politician.
Gone is the away of the codish and beans;
Swift comes the South as a nation's physician
To each wide mouth bringing bacon and greens,
Vain are appeals to the brain or the liver,
Through pastry dissolved in original dough;
Bringing its meals to the stomach acquiver,
Straight to the heart goes the South with the hos.

Capital Punishmeni.

-Papa, what is capital punishment Father - It is killing the Octopus, my sea.